THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The Government of Meghalaya have proposed to take up Rongai Valley Irrigation Scheme in the VII Five Year Plan to provide irigation facilities to an area of 4760 hectares in Garo Hills District. The State Government has sought the Expert assistance of Central Water Commission for carrying out the necessary detailed field investigations and for collection of requisite hydrological data for firming up the proposals. External financial assistance is not envisaged for this scheme.

Power projects in the North-Eastern Region

132. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that power projects in the North Eastern Region need immediate renovation and modernisation for generating increased power; and

(b) whether Government propose to take up this work during the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) The Assam State Electricity Board had submitted a project report for the renovation and modernisation of the Namrup Thermal Power Station. The Central Electricity Authority has accorded techno-economic approval to the Scheme in March, 1985. No other renovation and modernisation scheme from the North-Eastern region has been received in the Central Electricity Authority.

Request of Rajasthan Government for generating power in the joint sector

133. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government has sought the permission of the Central Government to generate power in the joint sector;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the projects forwarded to the Centre for clearance;

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(d) whether the Rajasthan Government has also asked for raising the capacity of the gas-based power plant to be put at Kotah to 500 MW and if so, the Central Government's decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) to (c) The Rajasthan State Electricity Board have forwarded to the Central Electricity Authority a project report for installing 2x210 MW capacity at Dholpur, at a revised estimated cost of Rs. 648.11 crores. Subsequently, the State Government suggested implementation of the project in the joint sector with I.D.B.I. assistance. It has been suggested to the State Government that the matter regarding availability of IDBI assistance may be pursued with the Ministry of Finance. The CEA can appraise the project report for techno-economic approval after necessary inputs such as availability of coal and water and environmental clearance etc. have been tied up.

(d) The Rajasthan Government have also suggested that the capacity of the proposed gas based thermal plant in the State may be raised to 500 MW. It has been intimated to the State Government that the capacity of the power station will be gover-